GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:79
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Meeting of Vice-Chancellors
Tamta Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

a) whether the Minister had called a meeting of Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the agenda discussed and the resolutions passed at the said meeting;

(c) the total number of incidents reported from various universities covering complaints of students regarding harassment and discrimination during the last three years and the current year, State/ UT-wise and University-wise; and

(d) the action taken by the Government to resolve the issue and to bring peaceful atmosphere in the campus?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a): Yes, Madam. A meeting with Vice Chancellors of Central Universities was convened on 18th February, 2016.

(b): The matters related to promotion of equity, strengthening of grievance redressal system, sensitization of University administrators towards handling issues faced by students of disadvantaged sections, need of counseling of youth, adequate representation of weaker sections in the statutory bodies, prevention of sexual harassment, etc, were discussed.

The Vice Chancellors have inter-alia agreed to institutionalize peer-assisted learning through an active mentoring system, to commence cost effective and transparent online admission process, to take steps to increase Gross Enrollment Ratio to 30%, to introduce new and innovative courses, to ensure instructions in English and an Indian language as applicable to the State, counseling of students by experts, to institutionalize a suitable grievance redressal mechanism and to appoint an Anti-Discrimination Officer, to ensure a healthy, safe and congenial work environment for women, students, staff and faculty and to inculcate a spirit of dignity of labour among the youth, etc.

(c): Data on such incidents is not centrally maintained.

(d): In order to check discrimination and harassment of students and to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism, University Grants Commission (UGC) has formulated UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 and UGC (Grievance Redressal), Regulations, 2012. These Regulations provide for prevention of discrimination on the grounds of caste and to safeguard the interests of the students of all sections including weaker sections. The Central Universities are competent to deal with such matters on their own.

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